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**(54) ANTIAGING AGENT**

**(57) Abstract**

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To obtain an antiaging agent showing the efficacy against aging of the skin by use of a solvent-extracted essence of gambir (botanical name: Uncaria gambir Roxburgh) as the active ingredient to control activity of elastase and thereby to recover and keep smoothness and freshness of the skin.

**SOLUTION:** This agent is obtained by soaking or heating with reflux an essence of leaves and young twigs of gambir (a runner, ever-green shrub growing wild or

cultivated in India and Southeast Asia), which are extracted with a solvent after being dried and then dispersed in water, together with the solvent, and then by filtering and concentrating the effluent from the above step. The objective agent for external use is obtained by incorporating the extract thus prepared at 0.0005 to 20.0wt %, as a dry basis, based on the whole agent. The extract shows the high elastase-inhibiting efficacy for the human skin, and the agent containing it prevents aging of the skin and keeps it fresh and healthy.

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